GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4334
ANSWERED ON:23.04.2008
INDIA HEALTH SUMMIT
Saradgi Shri Iqbal Ahmed

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the fourth India Health Summit was held in New Delhi in 2007;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the issues discussed and outcome of the Summit; and

(c) the action taken by the Government on the recommendations made in the Summit?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE(DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS)

(a) Yes sir,the fourth India Health Summit was organized by Confederation of Indian Industries (CII) in association with Indian Healthcare Federation (IFH) on 13-14 November 2007.

(b)&(c) The summit discussed several issues include inter-alia: health care infrastructure, health insurance, medical value travel, public-private partnerships, quality accreditation, advanced medical technology and manpower training.

The recommendations that emerged in the Conference include inter-alia:

Hospital projects should be treated at par with other sectors identified as infrastructure status and tax holiday under Section 80 I of Income Tax Act to be extended to new hospital projects irrespective of location;

Existing hospitals should also be extended the benefits to upgrade or add certain functions. The time frame for deduction should be around 5 years from the year of completion of up-gradation to help the hospitals to catch up with the latest technology to improve upon the treatment quality levels;

Benefits under Section 10 (23C) which presently applied to not for profit organizations should b e extended to the for profit healthcare ventures;

Amortization of certain preliminary expenses under Section 35D to the hospitals to attract new investments in healthcare as well as allow the existing players to scale operations;

Set-off or carry forward of accumulated losses under Section 72 A should also be extended to Companies running hospitals or owning hospitals,to make the investments more attractive;

Government of India to enter into Mutual Recognition Agreements with more countries and with a wider coverage for recognition of Indian Medical Degrees;

Foreign Regional Registration Offices to be extended in large corporate hospitals for the convenience of Medical Value Travel Patients;

Private Ambulances from organized healthcare providers should be allowed to receive patients from the airplane directly;

Fiscal Incentives for indigenous Manufacturing of Medical Equipment/Devices;

Extension of benefits to healthcare consulting on lines of software exports;

Revision of depreciation rates for hospital's Fixed Assets including medical equipment (capital intensive other than life saving equipment);

Reduction on customs & excise rates on medical equipment including replacement of spare parts above the value of Rs.5 lakhs;

Exemption for hospitals to pay sales tax for purchase of consumables used in hospitalization;

The Health Summit also recommended certain Income Tax benefits to:

@ individuals health seekers under Sections :80 D, 80 DD, 80DDB;

@ patients having medical − device implants & undergoing therapeutic procedures;

@ encourage preventive health check ups. A limit up to Rs. 10,000 per family should be provided as deduction from the taxable amount.

The Government has taken due notice of these recommendations and adequately addressed them wherever feasible, in the current year's budget.